ONTARIO BISEXUAL NETWORK NEWS

Fall 1993
(Dec. 2nd Edition)

OBN News, 519 Church Street, Toronto, Ontario M4Y 2C9 Infoline: (416)-925-XTRA ext. 2015 / Fax: (905)-649-1314

The Ontario Bisexual Network (OBN) is a group formed to enable contacts among bisexual people in Ontario, and to help them undertake activities of interest. At present, these activities include: a mailing list, a newsletter, support group meetings, social activities, a political action group, education of others, information sharing, and safer sexuality information. The network's only mandate is to bring people together. — OBN Meeting, August 2, 1990.
This newsletter provides a means of information exchange within OBN-Toronto as well as among bisexual community organizations throughout Ontario. — Meeting of Bisexual Community Groups in Ontario, August 14, 1993.

Speak Up!

We at the Ontario Bisexual Network invite every one to contribute to this newsletter. This is your newsletter —a voice for the bisexual movement. You are welcome to submit your thoughts, feelings, insights, creative expressions, news items and letters. Please submit your responses to OBN News at the address or fax number above.

OBN Social Group Events

When you call 925-XTRA, ext 2015, not only will you be kept up to date on regular meetings of the Ontario Bisexual Network, but you can also find out times for social group events.

Suggestions offered at the latest OBN meeting for social events include: live theatre on Sundays (pay what you can), repertory theatre ($3.00 with $5.00 membership or ten films for a $20.00 pass), pot luck dinner/dance, video night, nature hike, bowling, ice skating.

Any further ideas will be welcomed by David Goldberg at 596-0635. Anyone willing to take the initiative is welcome to organize such an event.

Bi Theory Group

The theory group is an informal group that meets to discuss selected topics that pertain to bisexuality. It is thought provoking and idea stimulating. Everyone is welcome. It meets one Monday per month from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm. Next meeting is December 13th, focussing on learning how to educate people about bisexuality. Call 925-XTRA, ext 2015 for more specific information.

Restaurant Opens to Bis

(by David Goldberg)

A recent positive social development has occurred in favour of the Queer community. The owners of *Ania's Restaurant and Dance Bar* have graciously opened their doors (and arms) to bisexuals, lesbians and gay men. The restaurant evokes a soothing ambience as experienced by candle light at night. Finished in earth tones, the fifty-seat, licenced establishment provides a comfortable informal atmosphere for gathering.

The general menu is that of a Mid Eastern theme, although the range is quite international in content. Many of the appetizers and pita sandwiches are vegetarian. Among other items can be had: falafel, shwarma, fried egg plant, curried chicken, fish and chips, burgers and a variety of kabobs. Live jazz and jams fill the air on the weekend, but earlier in the week you can bring your own tapes (Monday and Tuesday).

I enjoyed their fresh falafel pita sandwich with medium spicy sauce — delicious — and Wendy delighted her way through a tender and pleasantly spiced Leg of Lamb Shish Kabob with crisp vegetables. Dessert was a tantalizing hot fresh-baked apple pie and I savoured the baklava. This dinner was topped off with camomile tea and an extremely pleasant "thank you", all for under $20.00 (excellent value). A bottomless cup of coffee is $2.00.

Don't forget these dates:

- Bi/gay men night: alternate Mondays beginning October 25th
- All gays/lesbian night: alternate Tuesdays beginning October 26th
- Open to all — live jazz/jams: every Wednesday to Saturday
- November 27th: Fontaine and Her Impersonators

Ania's Restaurant and Dance Bar is located at 627 Queen St. W. (east of Bathurst). See you there.

Your Story in OBN News

In order to develop a greater sense of community within the Ontario Bisexual Network and related groups, OBN News invites you to share your testimonial with fellow bisexuals. You may remain completely anonymous if you wish. One personal story will appear in each newsletter.

Write your story the way you wish. Feel free to include: personal views on bisexuality, experiences along the way, how and why you do or don't identify as bi/gay/lesbian, what you've learned about yourself and others or about society, what hopes you have for your future and for the bisexual community, political views, and anything else you feel you would like to share.

PFLAG Meeting Discusses Bisexuality

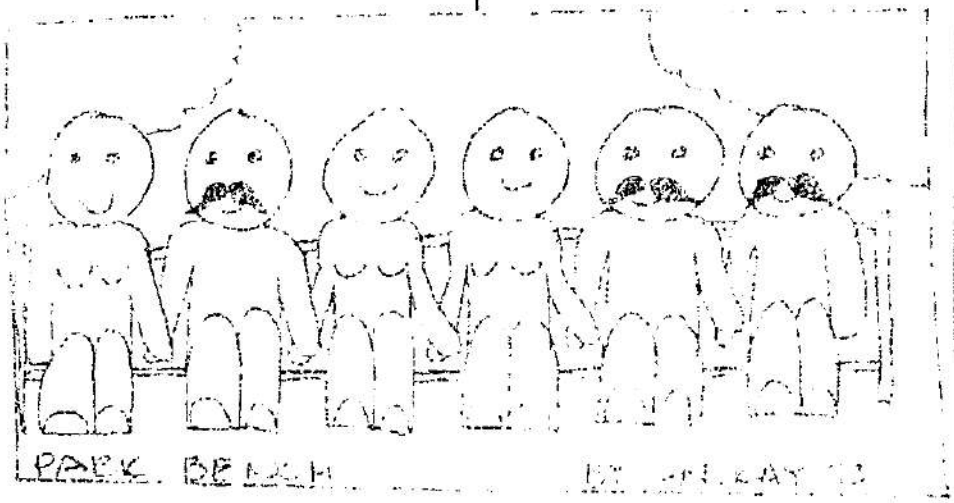
OBN members assisted as resource persons at a Nov. 19th meeting of PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays). The meeting took place at 7 pm at St. Clement's Anglican Church, 59 Briar Hill Road, off Yonge Street. PFLAG is an excellent resource for people coming out to their parents, and for referring family and friends.

March on United Nations

We would like to remind our readers that there is a Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual March on the United Nations in New York City in June 1994. Book your accommodations soon — contact BiNET USA at PO Box 772, Washington DC 20044-0772 for confirmation of dates. Pull up your political bootstraps and head south!

Windsor Pride Day Includes Bisexuals

The Windsor Pride Day Committee has agreed to incorporate bisexuals into their mandate and the term bisexuals will be included in their title next year. This positive report was made by *BEST —Bisexual Essex County Support Team* (of Windsor). Congratulations to the committee on its decision!



Coming to Terms

A Durham Board of Education trustee, Tanya Gulliver, has publicly come out as a self-identified bisexual in a Toronto Star article by Teresa Boyle (October 14, 1993 Scarborough/Durham section). Previous to this, Tanya was also featured in the September 1993 of Quota magazine and in the October 1st issue of XTRA (page 11). Our hats off to Tanya for her undeniable courage and bravery!

Boy George

Boy George is featured in an article in Vanity Fair — the November '93 issue (the cover of which displays a rather memorable photo of forty-three year-old Sylvester Stallone fully nude, wow!) It is announced that Boy George will be completing his autobiography soon. We're looking forward to it.

AIDS Therapy Lecture

Wendy Rogers has advised OBN News that Ed McCabe will be in Toronto for a one-day lecture on December 5th on the subject of Ozone Therapy for serious illnesses, including AIDS. Ed McCabe is an investigative journalist, author, speaker, and lay expert on ozone therapy, with two books published on the subject. The lecture will be held at OISE Auditorium, 252 Bloor St. W., 12:45 pm to 5:00 pm. For more information call 537-9653.

BBS Networking

To reach other members of OBN by computer, connect by modem through the Cellar BBS at (416)-604-3379, using the CHAT section of PrideNet. The Waterloo group can be reached through "Dusty Layne" at 157:4851/3. Bruce Small can be reached under his own name or his alias "Michael Da Vinci". Peterborough can be reached at E-mail @TLGC@TRENTU.CA.

Resources

"International Directory of Bisexual Groups" is available from the *East Coast Bisexual Network*, PO Box 639, Cambridge MA 02140, USA.

A constant source of inspiration is "Bi Any Other Name: Bisexual People Speak Out", by authors Loraine Hutchins and Lani Kaahumanu. The book is available at *Glad Day Books* and *The Women's Book Store* in Toronto.

Kinsey Knew it

According to Alfred Kinsey, "There are not two discrete populations, heterosexual and homosexual ... only the human mind invents categories and tries to force fact into separated pigeon holes ... the sooner we learn this ... the sooner we shall reach a sound understanding of the realities of sex[uality]".

Healthier Sex Nework

Bisexual men are welcome to attend meetings and activities of the *Healthier Sex Network for Gay and Bi Men*. The group is for men who are interested in male sexual contact and erotic touch that is safe, nourishing and emotionally supportive. The next meeting is on Friday, December 3rd at 8 pm, 519 Church St. Call 925-XTRA ext 2139.

Ontario Bisexual Community Group Addresses

BEST—Bisexual Essex County Support Team, Tecumseh South Postal Outlet, P.O. Box 21004, Tecumseh, Ontario N8N 4S1.

BiVERSE, 290 Rubidge St., Peterborough, Ontario K9J 3P4.

CKWBL — Cambridge, Kitchener-Waterloo Bisexual Liberation, P.O. Box 28002, Parkdale Postal Outlet, Waterloo N2L 6J8, (519)-884-4722.

Ontario Bisexual Network, 519 Church St., Toronto, Ontario M4Y 2C9. Tel: (416)-925-XTRA, ext. 2015. Fax: (905)-649-1314.

BiTown Bisexuals, 432 Kensington Ave., Ottawa, Ontario K1Z 6G8. Voice mail (613)-763-7784, or (613)-724-6065.

OBN Meeting Times

OBN Meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month, from 6 to 8 p.m., and on the third Thursday of every month from 8-10 pm, at the 519 Church St. Community Centre in Toronto (just north of Wellesley St.).

The meetings provide information and support for bisexual women and men. Newsletters are available at the 519 Centre and at every meeting. For information about events phone: 925-XTRA, ext. 2015.